

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (withdrawn from consideration) A method of assembling a portable stand for a fire extinguisher, the stand comprising a case, a pylon, and a base, the case having a rear wall and a bottom wall, the pylon having a front surface, an open bottom with an outer flange, and a top that is narrower than the outer flange at the bottom, the base having a central opening in its upper and lower surfaces, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting the top of the pylon upwardly through the central opening until the outer flange engages the base;

mounting the case onto the front surface of the pylon; and

positioning the fire extinguisher inside the case such that it rests on the bottom wall.

2. (withdrawn from consideration) The method of assembling a portable stand for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 1, wherein the bottom of the pylon and the central opening in the base are generally rectangular.

3. (withdrawn from consideration) The method of assembling a portable stand for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 2, wherein the rear wall has two apertures, and wherein the front surface has two apertures, and wherein the step of mounting the case onto the pylon comprises vertically aligning the apertures in the rear wall of the case with the apertures in the front surface of the pylon, inserting

two screws through the apertures and turning the screws with a screwdriver until they are locked into place.

4. (withdrawn from consideration) A method of storing a plurality of portable stands for a fire extinguisher, each stand comprising a case, a pylon having a top, a front surface, and an open bottom with an outer edge, and a base having a central opening in its upper and lower surfaces, the method comprising the iterative steps of:

- detaching the case from the pylon of each stand;
- separating the pylon and the base of each stand;
- stacking the pylons; and
- stacking the bases.

5. (withdrawn from consideration) The method of storing a plurality of portable stands for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 4, wherein the step of stacking the pylons comprises the iterative steps of:

- standing up a first pylon such that its bottom rests on a ground surface;

- positioning a second pylon over the first pylon such that its bottom surrounds the top of the first pylon; and

- lowering the second pylon onto the first pylon such that the front surface of the second pylon is adjacent to, and nearly co-extensive with, the front surface of the first pylon.

6. (withdrawn from consideration) The method of storing a plurality of portable stands for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 5, wherein the step of stacking the bases comprises the iterative steps of:

placing the lower surface of a first base adjacent to the ground surface;

positioning a second base over the first base such that its central opening is vertically aligned with the central opening of the first base; and

lowering the second base onto the first base.

7. (Currently amended) A method of using a portable stand for a fire extinguisher that has components including a case for holding the fire extinguisher, a pylon, and a base having a central opening, the method comprising the steps of:

assembling the stand;

displaying the stand at a work site;

disassembling the stand; and

storing the components.

8. (Original) The method of using a portable stand for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of assembling the stand comprises the steps of:

attaching the pylon to the base;

attaching the case to the pylon; and

placing the fire extinguisher inside the case.

9. (Original) The method of using a portable stand for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of attaching the pylon to the base comprises inserting the top of the pylon upwardly through the central opening of the base.

10. (Original) The method of using a portable stand for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of disassembling the stand comprises the steps of:

- removing the fire extinguisher from the case;
- detaching the case from the pylon; and
- separating the base from the pylon.

11. (Original) The method of using a portable stand for a fire extinguisher as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of storing the components comprises the steps of:

- placing the pylon on top of another pylon of the same type; and

- placing the base on top of another base of the same type.